holding off Sitting Bull
the local sheriff with brandy
Alexanders.
That was what he told the conductor.

"Galway lives in Vermont."
Something kept shoving him off the train
into the rain.
"I can write. I'm a writer."

2.

"Unlikely he's still there,"
he said to the porter
and parts of his novel fell
off at each station
from there to Burlingame
Vt.

-- Ben Pleasants

Beverly Hills, California

written in a copy of William Carlos Williams and replaced
on a bookstore shelf

not wanting to lose this poem
I have to borrow a pen
from a young girl
on a bench over there
and write it in a borrowed book.

Heritage

from my father I learned morality and innocence.
from my mother
feeling and innocence.
I shaped them into this.

something vivid this way comes

like a fox in a raincoat
making sly asides

to newborn pigeons
egging them on
yet never so sly